(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines gives 50% discount on fare to those citizens who have completed 65 years of age (in case of women above 63 years of age) on the date of commencement of journey. Air India does not offer discount to senior citizens. However, Air India has competitive market fares for international and domestic travel which are also applicable to the senior citizens.

Overhauling of IA's Boeing-747 Fleet

1513. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has taken a decision to overhaul its entire ageing fleet of Boeing-747;

(b) if so, the details of the new equipment etc. which are to be fixed in the entire fleet of Boeing-747;

(c) the details of companies from which such equipment would be purchased and at what terms and conditions; and

(d) the extent to which the overhaul of fleet is going to check/avoid accident, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Indian Airlines follows a preventive maintenance programme recommended by the aircraft manufacturers and approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Each aircraft in Indian Airlines is overhauled as and when it falls due for such an overhaul as per the prescribed maintenance schedule. All Indian Airlines and Alliance Air aircraft which are utilized for schedueld service are put into operation only after they have been certified airworthy by the DGCA. The productivity of maintenance schedules is progressively enhanced to check various critical areas. The aircraft modifications are also carried out as and when they fall due.

No new equipment is installed during progressive maintenance. The components are overhauled as per the programme approved by the DGCA and all spares are purchased from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or an organisation duly approved by the OEMs.

On one B737 aircraft, a major modification known as lap joint

modification, was carried out in-house as per Boeing Service Bulletin 53A-1177 during a major check. On remaining Boeings, this will be carried out progressively. The mod kit/material used was procured from Boeing Company, the manufacturers of aircraft.

Hike in the fee for Haj Pilgrimage

1514. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating hike in the fee for Haj Pilgrimage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of subsidy likely to be reduced this year with the proposed hike?

(a) THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir. It has been decided to maintain the fare of Haj Pilgrim 117 Rs. 12,000/-per pilgrim during the Haj 2002 for air travel to/ from Jeddah.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New airport at Surat

†1515. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that Government are considering to construct some new airports in the near future;

(b) if so, the names of the States alongwith the locations of such airports;

(c) whether Government are contemplating construction of an airport at Surat town of Gujarat; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) There is no plan to construct new airports at present by the Government. However, in principle apporval has been granted for construction of new international airports at Shamshabad near Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh, Devanhalli near Bangalore in Karnataka and Mopa in Goa on the request of the respective State Governments, in joint venture with private sector participation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.